

5

CLAIMS

1. A graphical user interface for use in preparation of an automatically generated communication in response to an event requiring generation of a communication, said graphical user  
10 interface comprising: means for presenting an image of a list of at least one selectable operational option; means for accepting selection of at least one operational option from the list; and means for presenting an image of said at least one operational option selected as a chosen option list.
- 15 2. A graphical user interface, according to claim 1, further comprising: means for selecting a chosen option from the chosen option list; and means for accepting return of a selected chosen option to the list of selectable operational options.
- 20 3. A graphical user interface, according to claim 1, wherein said means for presenting an image of a list of at least one selectable operational option and said means for presenting an image of said at least one operational option as a chosen option list together comprise a split screen, said split screen having a first portion and a second portion and being operative to display said list of said at least one selectable operational option in said first portion and to display said chosen option list in said second portion thereof.
- 30 4. A graphical user interface, according to claim 3, wherein said split screen has a first side and a second side and said first portion of said split screen is on said first side and wherein said second portion of said split screen is on said  
35 second side.

5. A graphical user interface, according to claim 3, wherein  
said split screen is one of a plurality of split screens.

6. A graphical user interface, according to claim 1, wherein said  
5 list of said at least one selectable operational option is  
presented as a tree structure.

7. A graphical user interface, according to claim 1, wherein said  
list of said at least one selectable operational option comprises  
10 a list of a plurality of different media by which the  
automatically generated communication can be transmitted; wherein  
said list of chosen options comprises at least one chosen media  
for transmission of the automatically generated communication;  
wherein said graphical user interface comprises means for  
15 accepting selection of said at least one chosen media and means  
for directing the automatically generated communication for  
transmission on said at least one chosen media selected.

8. A graphical user interface, according to claim 1, wherein  
20 said list of said at least one selectable operational option  
comprises at least one of: at least one criteria to be fulfilled  
to cause generation of the automatically generated communication;  
at least one text item; at least one criteria to be fulfilled to  
select a text item; and at least one fixed item to be selected.

25 9. A graphical user interface, according to claim 8, comprising  
conversion means for accepting a criterion definition for each of  
said at least one criteria and for converting the criterion  
definition into plain language for display.

30 10. A graphical user interface, according to claim 8 wherein said  
at least one text item comprises items in a plurality of  
selectable languages.

35 11. A graphical user interface, according to claim 10, wherein  
said at least one text item comprises items for use in at least  
one selectable idioms.

12. A graphical user interface, according to claim 11, wherein said at least one text items comprises items for use in at least one selectable media.

5 13. A graphical user interface, according to claim 12, wherein said at least one fixed item comprises at least one selectable place holder for use with at least one media.

10 14. A graphical user interface, according to claim 13, wherein said at least one fixed item comprises at least one selectable place holder for use in fixing the position of items with at least one media.

15 15. A graphical user interface, according to claim 14, wherein said at least one fixed item comprises at least one selectable item for use with at least one media.

16. A graphical user interface, according to claim 15, comprising means for testing a specified automatically generated communication by presenting different criteria for generation of an automatically generated communication, and means for altering a specification of the automatically generated communication until a satisfactory automatically generated communications are obtained.

25 17. A method for preparing an automatically generated communication in response to an event requiring generation of a communication, the method comprising the steps of: presenting an image of a list of at least one selectable operational option; 30 selecting at least one operational option from the list; accepting said at least one operational option selected; presenting an image of said at least one operational option selected as a chosen option list; and, subsequently generating an automatically generated communication which implements said at 35 least one chosen option listed.

18. A method, according to claim 17, comprising the steps of selecting a chosen option from the chosen option list; and accepting return of the chosen option selected to said list of at least one selectable operational option.

5

19. A method, according to claim 18 comprising the steps of providing a split screen with a first portion and a second portion; presenting, simultaneously, an image of a list of said least one selectable operational option in the first portion thereof and an image of said chosen option list in the second portion thereof.

10

20. A method, according to claim 19, comprising the steps of providing said first portion of said split screen on a first side thereof and providing said second portion of said split screen on a second side thereof.

15

21. A method, according to claim 20 wherein said split screen is one of a plurality of split screens.

20

22. A method, according to claim 20, comprising the step of presenting said list of at least one selectable operational option as a tree structure.

25

23. A method, according to claim 20, wherein said list of said at least one selectable operational option comprises a list of a plurality of different media by which the automatically generated communication can be transmitted and said list of chosen options comprises at least one chosen medium for transmission of the automatically generated communication; said method comprising the steps of: accepting selection of said at least one chosen medium; and subsequently directing the automatically generated communication for transmission on said at least one chosen medium.

30

35

24. A method, according to claim 20, wherein said list of said at least one selectable operational option comprises at least one

of: at least one criterion to be fulfilled to cause the generation of the automatically generated communication; at least one criterion to be fulfilled to select a text item; at least one text item to be selected; and at least one fixed item to be  
5 selected.

25. A method, according to claim 24, comprising the steps of: accepting a criterion definition for each of said at least one criterion and converting the criterion definition into plain  
10 language for display.

26. A method, according to claim 24 or claim 25, wherein said at least one text item comprises items in a plurality of selectable languages.

15 27. A method, according to claim 24 or claim 25, wherein said at least one text item comprises items for at least one selectable idiom.

20 28. A method, according to claim 24 or claim 25, wherein said at least one text item comprises items for at least one selectable media.

25 29. A method, according to claim 24 or claim 25, wherein said at least one fixed item comprises at least one selectable place holder for at least one media.

30 30. A method, according to claim 24 or 25, wherein said at least one fixed item comprises at least one selectable place holder for fixing the position of items with at least one media.

31. A method, according to claim 24 or 25, wherein said at least one fixed item comprises at least one selectable item for at least one media.

35 32. A method, according to claim 24 or 25, comprising the steps of: testing a specified automatically generated communication by

presenting different criteria for generation of an automatically generated communication thereto; and altering the specification of the automatically generated communication until a satisfactory automatically generated communication is obtained.

5

34. A graphical user interface, according to any one of claims 1 to 16; further comprising means to implement the chosen options in subsequent generation of the automatically generated communication.

10

34. A graphical user interface for use in preparation of an automatically generated communication in response to an event requiring generation of a communication, said graphical user interface comprising:

15

means for presenting an image of a list of at least one selectable operational option comprising at least one of: at least one criteria to be fulfilled to cause generation of the automatically generated communication; at least one text item comprising items in a plurality of selectable languages, items for use in at least one selectable idiom and items for use in at least one selectable medium; at least one criteria to be fulfilled to select a text item; and at least one fixed item to be selected comprising at least one selectable place holder for use with at least one medium, at least one selectable place holder for fixing the position of items with at least one medium and at least one selectable item for use with at least one medium;

20

conversion means for accepting a criterion definition for each of said at least one criteria and for converting the criterion definition into plain language for display;

means for accepting selection of an operational option for use;

means for presenting an image of said at least one operational option selected as a chosen option list.

25

means for selecting a chosen option on the chosen option list;

and means for accepting return of a selected chosen option to the list of selectable operational options, wherein:

5 said means for presenting an image of a list of at least one selectable operational option and said means for presenting  
an image of said at least one operational option as a chosen  
option list together comprise a screen split into a first side  
and a second side and being operative to display said list of  
said at least one selectable operational option as a tree  
structure in said first side and to display said chosen option  
10 list in said second side thereof;

15 said list of said at least one selectable operational  
option comprises a list of a plurality of different media by  
which the automatically generated communication can be  
transmitted;

15 said list of chosen options comprises at least one chosen  
media for transmission of the automatically generated  
communication;

20 said graphical user interface comprises means for  
accepting selection of said at least one chosen media and means  
for directing the automatically generated communication for  
transmission on said at least one chosen media selected.

35. A graphical user interface, according to claim 34,  
comprising means for testing a specified automatically generated  
25 communication by presenting different criteria for generation of  
an automatically generated communication, and means for altering  
a specification of the automatically generated communication  
until a satisfactory automatically generated communications are  
obtained.